

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mathias Jean) RE: Preliminary Amendment
 Rene Salle)
) Group: Not yet assigned
Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
) Examiner: Not yet assigned
Filed: Concurrently herewith)
) Our Ref: B-4207 618871-7
For: "SECURE NETWORK)
COMMUNICATIONS") Date: June 8, 2001

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box New Patent Application
Washington, D.C., 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, it is respectfully requested that the following amendments be made to the Claims:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace original Claims 4 and 5 with amended Claims 4 and 5, which are set forth below. (Appendix A, which is enclosed herewith, shows how original Claims 4 and 5 were amended to produce amended Claims 4 and 5.)

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the external network includes the internet.

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5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the client and the service provider communicate by way of tunnelled session via the gateway.

Please add the following new claims:

12. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 in which the external network includes the internet.

13. (New) A method as claimed in claim 3 in which the external network includes the internet.

14. (New) A method as claimed in claim 2 in which the client and the service provider communicate by way of tunnelled session via the gateway.

15. (New) A method as claimed in claim 3 in which the client and the service provider communicate by way of tunnelled session via the gateway.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the client and the service provider communicate by way of tunnelled session via the gateway.

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REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends Claims 4 and 5 so that these claims are no longer multiply dependent. Claim 12-16 have been added to provide similar coverage. The Applicant may elect to amend Claims 4 and 5 to make them again multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims at any time during the pendency of the above-identified U.S. application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Appendix A

Appendix A

(VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE)

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4. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 in which the external network includes the internet.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 in which the client and the service provider communicate by way of tunnelled session via the gateway.